

February 16, 2017

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Ginger Mills

Good Evening Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line item, which includes the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, by 20%.

As an individual who works directly with individuals affected by brain injury, I see first-hand not only the needs of those with brain injury but also the important role that BIAC plays/can play in their lives. For 35 years, BIAC has received an operating grant from the Department of Social Services to provide entirely free resources and supports which the State is unable to provide. **No one else does what BIAC does, including the Department of Social Services (DSS)**, which is why DSS contracts with BIAC to provide the many essential services that it is not equipped to offer. BIAC meets the needs of the State's brain injury survivors on behalf of DSS as efficiently as it does effectively.

At a recent social event hosted by BIAC, a brain injury survivor's sister came up to me and asked me to thank all those who are a part of the organization for not only the services BIAC provides but for being a beacon of support for those in the brain injury survivor community.

A 20% reduction in funding would severely impact BIAC and the services they provide to the community. Please maintain funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line so that BIAC can be there for those who need them most.

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